

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

DOTE-00 EPA-04 HEW-06 HUD-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OIC-02 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 USIA-15 /107 W

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R 291945Z OCT 76

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9982

UNCLAS USNATO 5844

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS SENV, CCMS, NATO

SUBJECT: CCMS: ROUNDTABLE TOPIC FOR SPRING PLENARY IN
DUSSELDORF

REF: SAMPAS/HARRIS TELECON, OCTOBER 28

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING ADVANCE TEXT OF THE
CCMS PROJECTS OFFICER'S MEMORANDUM TO DELEGATION CCMS
OFFICERS PREPARATORY TO AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THESE OFFICERS
ON NOVEMBER 3 TO DISCUSS THE SPRING PLENARY ROUNDTABLE.
BEGIN TEXT:

THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

THE SPRING 1976 CCMS ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON
"THE ASSESSMENT OF POLLUTION HAZARDS AND THE DETERMINATION
OF ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS."

A FURTHER STEP IN THE DEBATE MIGHT BE TO DISCUSS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE
(NORMAL) DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OR, MORE PRECISELY, THE
MECHANISMS USED BY MEMBER NATIONS TO IDENTIFY AND MEASURE
BEFOREHAND THE IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTIONS SO AS TO REDUCE
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UNDESIRABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES.

THE DISCUSSION MIGHT FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

ALL LARGE PROGRAMMES USUALLY ENTAIL COMPLEX INTERACTIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, INCLUDING APPLICATION OF THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE, AND IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND ON THE WAYS HUMAN, FINANCIAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES ARE ALLOCATED.

SUCH IMPACTS ARE DIFFICULT TO FORESEE WITHOUT CAREFUL AND COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS. AS THERE ARE OBVIOUS GAPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL FORECASTING, THERE IS A NEED FOR CAREFUL EVALUATION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMMES.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES MUST DEVELOP APPROPRIATE TOOLS FOR PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES IN THE WIDEST SENSE.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS MAY PROVIDE DECISION-MAKING BODIES WITH BETTER MECHANISMS TO ANALYSE THE EFFECTS OF LARGE-SCALE PROGRAMMES AND MAY OFFER THE OPPORTUNITY TO ORIENT SUCH PROGRAMMES IN A DIRECTION CONSISTENT WITH DESIRED SOCIAL GOALS.

THE DISCUSSION MIGHT INDICATE IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED.

THE DISCUSSION MIGHT ALSO INDICATE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS.

2. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED ALTHOUGH - SINCE THE FINAL VERSION OF THIS MEMORANDUM WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO OTHER DELS UNTIL NOVEMBER 2 - IT IS UNLIKELY THAT OTHERS WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE INSTRUCTED COMMENTS AT THE MEETING. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NATO05844
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197610100/baaaaziz.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2005 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: n/a
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006